

REMARKS

In view of the following remarks, the Examiner is requested to withdraw the rejections and allow claims 1, 2, 4-16 and 28, the only claims pending and currently under examination in this application.

Claim 1 has been amended to solely to further clarify that the claims are directed to a method of in situ synthesis of polymeric ligands on a surface of a solid support. No new matter has been added by way of these amendments. As no new matter has been added by way of these amendments, entry thereof by the Examiner is respectfully requested.

In the Advisory Action, the Examiner maintained the rejection of Claims 1, 2, 4-15 and 28 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Anderson et al (US Patent No. 5,186,824, issued 16 February 1993) in view of Schleifer (A) (US Patent No. 6,077,674, issued 20 June 2000) or Schleifer (B) (US Patent No. 6,309,828, issued 30 October 2001).

In maintaining this rejection, the Examiner asserted that the claim language still encompassed methods in which ligands are prefabricated and deposited premade onto different locations of a substrate.

While not agreeing with the position of the office, the claims have been amended to recite in part: "(e) reiterating steps (a) to (d) at least once to produce said addressable array having a first polymeric ligand at said first location of said substrate and a second polymeric ligand at said second location of said substrate."

Since the language refers "said first location" and "said second location" of "said substrate" first referred to in step (a), the claims do not encompass methods of pre-synthesizing polymeric ligands and then depositing them onto a surface.

As such, it is believed that the rejection may be withdrawn and that all of the claims are allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks above, the Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims are in condition for allowance, which action is requested. If the Examiner finds that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, please telephone Bret Field at (650) 327-3400.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required by this paper, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-1078.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: September 24, 2007

By: 

Bret E. Field
Registration No. 37,620

AGILENT TECHNOLOGIES, INC.
Legal Department, DL429
Intellectual Property Administration
P.O. Box 7599
Loveland, CO 80537-0599

F:\DOCUMENT\AGIL\183 (10031531-1)\10031531-1 (AGIL-183) response to accompany rce.doc